

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

LISTING OF CLAIMS:

1-40. (Cancelled)

41. (New) A computerized method, comprising:

displaying a graphical user interface element whose position is determined

independent of a position of a window;

detecting a change in focus from a first window on a computer display to a

second window; and

animating a transition of the graphical user interface element to signify that

the graphical user interface element has been updated in conjunction

with the change in focus, regardless of any user interaction with the

graphical user interface element.

42. (New) The method of claim 41 wherein:

the graphical user interface element comprises a menu bar; and

the step of animating a transition comprises updating the menu bar from a plurality of options pertaining to an application in the first window to a plurality of options pertaining to an application in the second window.

43. (New) The method of claim 41, wherein the step of detecting a change in focus comprises detecting the user clicking on the second window.

44. (New) The method of claim 41, wherein the step of detecting a change in focus comprises detecting the opening of a second application to make the second application active, when the first window was active and the second window was not yet open.

45. (New) The method of claim 41, wherein the step of detecting a change in focus comprises detecting, when the first window is active and the second window is open, closing the first window to make the second window active.

46. (New) The method of claim 41, wherein the step of animating a transition comprises rotation animation graphics.

47. (New) The method of claim 41, wherein the step of animating a transition comprises scrolling animation graphics.

48. (New) The method of claim 41, wherein the step of animating a transition comprises three-dimensional animation graphics.

49. (New) The method of claim 48, wherein the three-dimensional animation graphics comprise animation graphics utilizing gray scales.

50. (New) The method of claim 49, wherein the three-dimensional animation graphics utilize gray scales to achieve a virtual lighting effect.

51. (New) A computerized system, comprising:

means for displaying a graphical user interface element whose position is

determined independent of a position of a window;

means for detecting a change in focus from a first window on a computer

display to a second window; and

means for animating a transition of the graphical user interface element to

signify that the graphical user interface element has been updated in

conjunction with the change in focus, regardless of any user interaction

with the graphical user interface element.

52. (New) The system of claim 51 wherein:

the graphical user interface element comprises a menu bar;

the means for animating a transition comprise means for updating the menu bar from a plurality of options pertaining to an application in the first window to a plurality of options pertaining to an application in the second window.

53. (New) A non-transitory computer-readable data storage device containing a program that, when executed by a processor, controls a computer to perform the following operations:

display a graphical user interface element whose position is determined

independent of a position of a window;

detect a change in focus from a first window on a computer display to a second window; and

animate a transition of the graphical user interface element to signify that the graphical user interface element has been updated in conjunction with the change in focus, regardless of any user interaction with the graphical user interface element.

54. (New) A computer-readable data storage device as in claim 53, wherein the graphical user interface element comprises a menu bar; and

the control of a processor to animate a transition comprises updating the menu bar from a plurality of options pertaining to an application in the first window to a plurality of options pertaining to an application in the second window

55. (New) A computerized method, comprising:

displaying information associated with a first window in an area that is always visible;

receiving a selection of a second window while keeping a projected position of both windows onto a plane of the display constant;

displaying information associated with the second window in the area in response to the receiving a selection; and

providing a user with additional visual notice of the displaying information associated with the second window that is coordinated with a change of displayed information.

56. (New) The method of claim 55 wherein:

the area comprises a menu bar; and

the additional visual notice comprises animating the change of displayed information.

57. (New) The method of claim 55, wherein the step of displaying information associated with the second window is triggered by detecting the user clicking on the second window.

58. (New) The method of claim 55, wherein the step of displaying information associated with the second window is triggered by detecting, the opening of a second application to make the second application active, when the first window was active and the second window was not yet open.

59. (New) The method of claim 55, wherein the step of displaying information associated with the second window is triggered by detecting, when the first window is active and the second window is open, closing the first window to make the second window active.

60. (New) The method of claim 55, wherein the additional visual notice comprises rotation animation graphics.

61. (New) The method of claim 55, wherein the additional visual notice comprises scrolling animation graphics.

62. (New) The method of claim 55, wherein the additional visual notice comprises three-dimensional animation graphics.

63. (New) The method of claim 62, wherein the three-dimensional animation graphics comprise animation graphics utilizing gray scales.

64. (New) The method of claim 63, wherein the three-dimensional animation graphics utilize gray scales to achieve a virtual lighting effect.

65. (New) A computerized system, comprising:

means for displaying information associated with a first window in an area that is always visible;

means for receiving a selection of a second window while keeping a projected position of both windows onto a plane of the display constant;

means for displaying information associated with the second window in the area in response to receiving the selection; and

means for providing a user with additional visual notice of the displaying information associated with the second window that is coordinated with a change of displayed information.

66. (New) The system of claim 65 wherein:

the graphical user interface element comprises a menu bar;

the means for animating a transition comprise means for updating the menu bar from a plurality of option pertaining to an application in the first window to a plurality of options pertaining to an application in the second window.

67. (New) A computer-readable data storage device containing a program that, when executed by a processor, controls a computer to perform the method of claim 55.

68. (New) A computer-readable data storage device containing a program that, when executed by a processor, controls a computer to perform the method of claim 56.

69. (New) A computerized method, comprising:

displaying information associated with a first active computer program in a graphical user interface element;

detecting at least one of activating or deactivating a computer program whose output is displayed on a computer display;

displaying information associated with a second active computer program in the graphical user interface element; and

animating a change of information of the graphical user interface element with an in-place transition animation to signify that the graphical user interface element is now associated with the second computer program instead of the first computer program.

70. (New) The method of claim 69 wherein:

the graphical user interface element comprises a menu bar; and

the step of animating is triggered by a change of focus from the first computer program to the second computer program.

71. (New) The method of claim 69, wherein the step of animating a change is triggered by detecting the user clicking on a window belonging to the second active computer program.

72. (New) The method of claim 69, wherein the step of animating a change is triggered by detecting the opening of a second computer program to activate the second active computer program, when the first computer program was active and the second program was not yet active.

73. (New) The method of claim 69, wherein the step of animating a change is triggered by detecting, when a first window belong to the first computer program is active and a second window belonging to the second active computer program is open, closing the first window to make the second window active.

74. (New) The method of claim 69, wherein the in-place transition animation comprises rotation animation graphics.

75. (New) The method of claim 69, wherein the in-place transition animation comprises scrolling animation graphics.

76. (New) The method of claim 69, wherein the in-place transition animation comprises three-dimensional animation graphics.

77. (New) The method of claim 76, wherein the three-dimensional animation graphics comprise animation graphics utilizing gray scales.

78. (New) The method of claim 77, wherein the three-dimensional animation graphics utilize gray scales to achieve a virtual lighting effect.

79. (New) A computerized system, comprising:

means for displaying information associated with a first active computer program in a graphical user interface element;

means for detecting at least one of activating or deactivating a computer program whose output is displayed on a computer display;

means for displaying information associated with a second active computer program in the graphical user interface element; and

means for animating a change of information of the graphical user interface element with an in place transition animation to signify that the graphical user interface element is now associated with the second computer program instead of the first computer program.

80. (New) The system of claim 79 wherein:

the graphical user interface element comprises a menu bar; and

the means for animating are triggered by a change of focus from the first computer program to the second computer program.

81. (New) A non-transitory computer-readable data storage device containing a program that, when executed by a processor, controls a computer to perform the following operations:

- display information associated with a first active computer program in a graphical user interface element;
- detect at least one of activating or deactivating a computer program whose output is displayed on a computer display;
- display information associated with a second active computer program in the graphical user interface element; and
- animate a change of information of the graphical user interface element with an in-place transition animation to signify that the graphical user interface element is now associated with the second computer program instead of the first computer program.

82. (New) A computer-readable data storage device according to claim 81, wherein the graphical user interface element comprises a menu bar; and the control of a processor to perform animating is triggered by a change of focus from the first computer program to the second computer program.